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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 22 March 1955

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1. Mr. Robert Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Government Operations Committee, has written requesting that the Agency furnish the Subcommittee certain detailed information largely involving facts and figures on material shipped from the Soviet Union to Red China over the Trans-Siberian railway. The letter states that if any of the information is classified the Subcommittee will take it subject to the classification. After discussing this letter with the Acting DD/I, Mr. Sheldon, it was agreed to forward it to the AD/ORR to see what type of reply could possibly be made to the Subcommittee's questions. Dr. Guthe informs me [redacted]

[redacted] he will attempt to prepare a possible reply for the Director's consideration.

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2. A subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee has held a hearing on H. R. 3882, a bill to require registration of certain persons who have received instruction or assignment in the espionage, counter-espionage or sabotage service or tactics of a foreign government or foreign national party. The Department of Justice and the Department of State supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. Arens, Assistant Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Mr. Arens' opposition was on the grounds that the measure through its exemptions would weaken the laws against propaganda dissemination passed last year. The Subcommittee pointed out that the bill did not deal with propaganda but with foreign agents, and that, therefore, Mr. Arens' objections were not sound. One question regarding the CIA section was raised for information, and the Department of Justice witnesses satisfied the questioner with their replies. Mr. Harold Koffsky, of the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice, felt that the bill would pass without trouble in the House, but envisaged difficulties in getting it through the Internal Security Subcommittee in the Senate. Mr. Koffsky told me that a few minutes before the Department witnesses were to testify the Navy called up and asked for permission to testify on their own, but the Department of Justice turned them down. However, the Navy has filed a private expression of their views.

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